



# NEW JERSEY FIELD OFFICE FIELD NOTES

**JULY 2015**



## **Governor Chris Christie By Eric Schrading**

Eric Schrading from NJFO attended a press conference on July 23 where Governor Christie announced a \$3.8 million dollar grant (funds from HUD through NJDEP) to the Wreck Pond restoration project. DOI is funding about \$2 million through a Hurricane Sandy project to add a culvert at Wreck Pond to enhance fish passage. The additional funds will be used to improve riparian buffers, create a living shoreline in the estuarine pond and implement some dredging of the pond. The funds will be used to enhance the on-going USFWS project. Implementation should be fall 2015. Congressional District 4. Photo Credit: Eric Schrading, USFWS





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## **Aquaculture Advisory Council Meeting**

**By Wendy Walsh**

On July 17, the NJFO's Wendy Walsh attended an informational meeting of the Aquaculture Advisory Council to update both Council members and the public on the status of red knot consultation at the Aquaculture Development Zone (ADZ). The Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and several State agencies have met several times since June 5 to discuss the scope and schedule for this consultation, with the goal of having it completed well before the red knot's May 2016 stop over period. Within the next few weeks, the State and the Corps are expected to make key decisions about the geographic scope of the consultation. At that time the Service will e-mail a second "Aquaculture Update" to all interested parties. (We e-mailed the first Aquaculture Update on April 27, 2015.) Anyone interested in receiving future Aquaculture Updates can contact [Wendy Walsh@fws.gov](mailto:Wendy_Walsh@fws.gov).

Congressional District 2. Photo Credit: Eric Schrading, USFWS

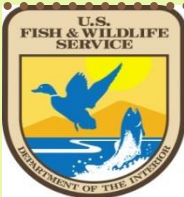


## **NJ SWAP**

**By Eric Schrading**

The NJFO participated in workshops for the NJ SWAP revision on July 16 and July 22 to identify priority actions associated with policy and planning on the 16<sup>th</sup> and habitat protection and management on the 22nd. The workshops were attended by a variety of federal and State agencies as well as land trusts, conservation organizations, and other environmental organizations. The workshops were two in a series of three workshops (the other covering marine issues). Congressional Districts (All).





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#### Invasive Plant Surveys at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst By Carlo Popolizio

Biologists Carlo Popolizio and Katie Conrad completed the first two surveys for invasive plant species within eight priority areas at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (JBMDL), Burlington and Ocean Counties, New Jersey. A third field survey will be conducted in late August through September of this year. The eight priority areas total over 700 acres that have been identified for assessment and potential treatment. Following the survey, the New Jersey Field Office's Partners for Fish and Wildlife will develop treatment recommendations for the documented invasive plant species. The most common invasive species are stilt grass (*Microstegium vimineum*), autumn olive (*Eleaegnus umbellata*), multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*), Chinese lespedeza (*Lespedeza cuneata*), Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), and common wormwood or mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*). Another 26 invasive occur infrequently or in scattered patterns. There are also 13 recorded non-indigenous grasses, most of which appear to have been planted for erosion control. Congressional Districts 3 and 4. Photo Credit: Katie Conrad, USFWS

